

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## Patent

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

## Technology Center 2600

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

Japanese Patent Document No. 09-238390 is in Japanese. An English-language abstract of this foreign-language document is enclosed herewith. For additional information regarding the relevance of this patent document, please see the enclosed copy of the International Search Report for the Applicant's related PCT Patent Application No. PCT/IL01/00222.

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) include those cited in the International Search Report for a related PCT application no. PCT/IL01/00222 (3 pages). A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed herewith.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other

Information Disclosure Statement  
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required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), if the Examiner believes that such a fee is due in order for this IDS to be considered on the merits.

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The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.) The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

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The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on January 6, 2003 by Alexis Karriker.

Alexis Karriker

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)  
Copy of Search Report for PCT/IL01/00222 (3 pages)  
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)